



## Cohort Frequently Asked Questions



### What is the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Definition?

An accurate method of calculating graduation rates that is uniform across states is necessary to improve high school accountability. Requiring school officials to have written confirmation before removing a student from a cohort will improve the accuracy of graduation rate calculations. Written confirmation will also ensure that students who have dropped out of school are not counted as transfers and will consequently hold schools accountable for dropouts and others who do not graduate from high school with a regular diploma.<sup>1</sup>

- ✓ The **final federal regulations** define the “4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate” as the number of students who graduate in four years with a regular high school diploma divided by the number of students who entered high school four years earlier (adjusting for transfers in and out, émigrés and deceased students—see below).
  - Students who graduate in four years include students who earn a regular high school diploma at the end of their fourth year; before the end of their fourth year; and, if a state chooses, during a summer session immediately following their fourth year.
  - To remove a student from a cohort, a school or district must confirm in writing that a student has transferred out, emigrated to another country, or is deceased.
  - For students who transfer out of a school, the written confirmation must be official and document that the student has enrolled in another school or in an educational program that culminates in a regular high school diploma.
- ✓ **The 4-year adjusted cohort graduation rate must be reported at the high school, district, and state levels in the aggregate as well as disaggregated by subgroups.**

#### <sup>1</sup>A Uniform, Comparable Graduation Rate October 2008

**How the final regulations for Title I hold schools, districts and states accountable for improving graduation rates**

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/req/proposal/uniform-grad-rate.html>

## Where can we see the Kentucky Graduation Data?

The data can be viewed in the School Report Card on the Kentucky Department of Education's web page at this link: <http://applications.education.ky.gov/SRC/>

Choose State, District or School → Accountability → Next-Generation Learners (NxGL) → Graduation Rate

## What is the formula for rate calculation?

### 4-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Calculation Formula

Number of cohort members who earned a regular high school diploma by the end of the current school year

Number of first-time 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the fall three years earlier (starting cohort) plus students who transferred in,  
Minus students who transfer out, emigrate or die during the past 4 years

### 5-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate Calculation Formula

Number of cohort members who earned a regular high school diploma that should have graduated at the end of the previous school year

Number of first-time 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the fall four years earlier (starting cohort) plus students who transferred in,  
Minus students who transfer out, emigrate or die during the past 5 years

## How is the cohort year part of accountability?

- **Overall Score Reporting for Next-Generation Learners** - Individual student data collected from the assessments and college/career readiness and graduation rates generate a numeric value for each category of next-generation learners -- Achievement, Gap, Growth, College/Career Readiness and Graduation Rate. The value for each category is weighted to create a final overall score for next-generation learners. The following table illustrates the weights.

Grade Range	Achievement	Gap	Growth	College/Career Readiness	Graduation Rate	Total
Elementary	33.3	33.3	33.3	N/A	N/A	100
Middle	28	28	28	16	N/A	100
High	20	20	20	20	20	100

The 5-year Adjusted Graduation Rate will be used in the Unbridled Learning accountability calculations 20% of the Next-Generation Learners total score at the high school level.

The 4-year Adjusted Graduation Rate will be compared to the graduation rate goals that were released in December of 2015 to determine if the goal has been met. The 2014 4-year was the baseline used to create an annual goal for every year through 2024. In 2024, the goal is 98%.

### **How is the Cohort Determined?**

The following page shows a flow chart to show how a student becomes a part of a specific cohort and how their final status is determined.

1. Student's first year in grade 9 date determines which cohort the student is in. For example if a student's first time grade 9 date is sometime during the 2009-10 school year, the student is a part of the 2013 cohort and must graduate with a regular high school diploma by July 31, 2013 with an end status of G01 (graduate in less than 4 years) or G02 (graduate in 4 years) to be an on-time graduate for the 4-year rate. For 5-year rate, student must graduate with a regular high school diploma by July 31, 2014 with an end status of G03 (graduate in 5 years) to be an on-time graduate.
2. A report pulls the last enrollment in the student information system (Infinite Campus, IC).
3. If the last enrollment end status is a W20 (withdrawal to homeschool), W21 (withdrawal to private school), W29 (out of state school), W07 (withdrawal due to medical issues) or W08 (deceased), the student is moved to the verified transfer list and removed from both the top and bottom parts of the ACGR graduation rate formula. This student does not count positively or negatively for the school.
4. If a student does not meet the criteria listed in 1 or 3 above, the student is marked as a not on-time graduate and is counted in the bottom part of the cohort graduation rate formula.

### **What cohort is the student in if first enrollment in grade 9 was not in Kentucky?**

The student should be in the cohort based on the year entered the grade 9 regardless of location.

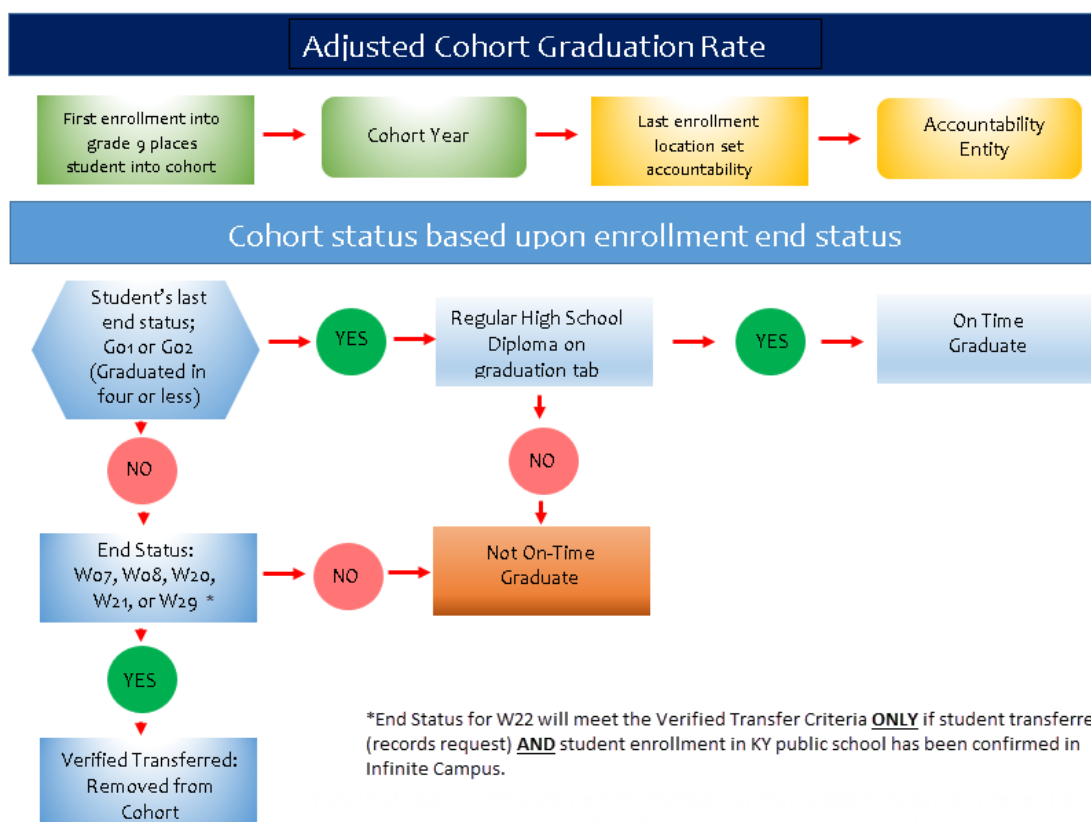
### What cohort is the student in if retained in grade 9?

The student should be in the cohort based on the first enrollment in grade 9 not the last enrollment in grade 9.

### Why is the student showing up on the 2016 cohort?

The student's first grade 9 enrollment was during the 2012-13 school year and the last enrollment for this student was in a school in your district. The cohort year is established based upon enrollments in IC.

## How a student becomes a part of a Cohort



### How can the student be removed from cohort list?

The student can only be removed if they have a verified transfer to another school, in Kentucky, homeschool, If the last enrollment end status is a W20 (withdrawal to homeschool), W21 (withdrawal to private school), W29 (out of state school), W07 (withdrawal due to medical issues) or W08 (deceased), the student is moved to the verified transfer list and removed from both the top and bottom parts of the graduation rate formula. This student does not count positively or negatively for the school.

**How are students who are wards of the court or at DJJ's handled?**

The accountability goes to the state.

**What about students who dropout within 30 days. How are they handled for accountability?**

For cohort, the accountability starts immediately upon enrollment and remains with the school unless the student becomes a verified transfer.

**I received a record request for a previously withdrawn to student. How do I handle?**

You can change the withdraw code on the last enrollment to be correct based on new information.

**The alternative schools issue diplomas. Will the alternative school be reported publically?**

No, alternative school (A2-A7) counts will be included in the district/state counts that are reported publically. But there will not be a line in the report that identifies the counts coming from the alternative school. If the regular public school (A1) issues the diploma then those will be reported under that school.

**Questions**

For questions regarding the Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate calculation, contact the Office of Assessment and Accountability at (502) 564-4394 or via e-mail at [kdeassessment@education.ky.gov](mailto:kdeassessment@education.ky.gov).